

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES VILLAGE OF FREISTATT \$517,000 FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Village of Freistatt received \$517,000 in a Mock Check ceremony November 1, 2005. The USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant funds will be used to make significant water system improvements for the 76 residential and commercial water users in the rural community.

“Improving water quality in Missouri is a top priority,” said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “This funding will help improve the area’s water infrastructure system. I’ve been working with local water quality organizations to find long term solutions to protect our water resources and we will continue working in the Senate to provide additional resources for water quality improvements in Southwest Missouri.”

Congressman Roy Blunt said, “The problem-solving partnership between Rural Development and small communities has led to many improvements in rural America. Water distribution and water treatment projects for many small towns and villages like Freistatt would not be affordable without the assistance of Rural Development. These projects, funded with federal loans and voter-approved revenue bonds, improve the quality of life for the growing number of people who reside in those communities. These efforts are vital to economic expansion in rural America.”

Chairman Elmer Conway expressed his appreciation, “The Village would like to thank Rural Development for their continued efforts and support in helping rural communities to better their standards of living through programs made available to rural areas. We also extend our thank you to our federal and state elected officials. U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent, and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have and continue to focus their strong support for rural areas. Their devotion to ensuring that rural areas receive the aid and needed support are “key components” to the survival and future growth of towns and villages such as ours. Our present Water Improvement Project has been a long time in becoming a reality, but thanks to the residents of Freistatt in their support of this bond issue and to USDA Rural Development, we are finally getting to see our project come alive. I believe I speak for all the residents by saying, we are sincerely grateful to each and every one who has played a role in helping us to achieve this accomplishment.”

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt. They have been and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for



Left to Right (holding the check): Stacy Burks, District Office Director for Senator Bond; Deborah Schoen, Village Clerk; Elmer Conway, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Roy Obermann, Board Member

Back Row: Bruce Hively, Rural Development Area Specialist; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for Congressman Blunt; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Mike Ortwein, Board Member; Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for Rural Development; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director

rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects.” Branum added, “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce L. Hively, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer.” To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).